

Summer Term 2019

# The Greyhound



SOLIHULL



This term, a team of cyclists and support crew from the school community travelled 170 miles from the Field of Mars to our David Fricke Mountain Cottage in Snowdonia in memory of Martyn Garner, our much-loved former friend, colleague and teacher.



### What is your favourite Shakespeare play and why?

It has to be *King Lear*. The magnitude of it is overwhelming at times, but Shakespeare gives us so much in terms of beautiful language and extreme characters. It has everything: the breakdown of relationships, the gouging out of eyes, vile treachery, murder, villainous Machiavellian characters, heart-breaking moments of intense tragedy – what's not to love? Oh, and one of the most profound lines ever written: 'Howl, howl, howl, howl.' It says it all really

### What would be your ideal holiday destination?

I'm always drawn to South East Asia. I lived there for a while as a child and love going back. It's a part of the world which holds so many great memories for me: delicious food, beautiful scenery, astonishing wildlife, and the most intriguing (yet useful) direction I have ever been given: 'Turn left at Hippie Dave.'

### Who would be at your fantasy dinner party?

Another good question! Gonville Bromhead (V.C), Jean Rhys, Nancy Mitford, Boudica, and (of course) Hippie Dave. A great mix of military greats, witty writers, and interesting personalities. It would be a sparkling evening.

## Development and Old Silhillians' Office

### Over 60s Tour of the School

Earlier this term, our Over 60s Luncheon Group joined us for a tour of the school before heading off to the Silhillians Sports Club for Lunch.

### A Celebration of School Musicals from 1976 – 2016

Over 130 former pupils, parents and staff returned to celebrate 40 years of the musical at Solihull. They saw a documentary charting its history from the Turnbull and Slaughter days right through to Perrins and Fair. The audience then enjoyed an enthusiastic singalong, led by the irrepressible Stephen Perrins and accompanied by the legendary Jill Godsall.



## The Greyhound Interviews... Miss Airdrie, English

### How long have you been teaching?

I've been teaching for 15 years now, but have worked in education since 1998. I started off in a Pupil Referral Unit, before moving on to a mainstream school.

### What is your favourite thing about teaching?

No two days are the same. To paraphrase Forrest Gump, 'You never know what you're gonna get.' There's so much variety in teaching and so many different experiences. It's great to watch pupils develop and grow from children into young adults, developing personalities and characters. This year I said goodbye to my Form. We started together in 2012 when they were fresh-faced and shy Third Formers. Now they're all off to pastures new.

### Who is your favourite writer and why?

That's a tricky question because there are so many great writers! If I had to choose just one, though, it would have to be Evelyn Waugh. I love the writers of the 1920s and 1930s, and Waugh's writing really encapsulates the era. He has a brutal satirical wit, and creates vivid and engaging characters. He is able to balance humour and a sense of the ridiculous with subtle notes of tragedy and poignancy. Waugh certainly keeps his readers on their toes. I always find comfort in his writing, and enjoy the feeling of being transported to the drawing rooms of 1930s society.



### Reunion of the Classes of 1979 and 1989

It was a pleasure to welcome back to school the classes of 1979 and 1989 on Saturday 11 May. They enjoyed reminiscing about old times and seeing how the campus has changed since they were here 30/40 years ago. This was followed by a wonderful afternoon tea in the Keith Sach Suite and then an evening at the Silhillians Sports Club.





First run for the Green Power Racing vehicle using some modelled components to test the steering... so far so good! (2 May)

The U12A team recorded their first win of the season against Warwick in a reduced-overs match this afternoon. (3 May)



### Benchers' Soirée

In May, our Upper Sixth Benchers celebrated a fantastic year in office at the Benchers' Soirée. Thank you to our inspirational speaker and Old Silhillian, Gregory Weston.

### Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet

In June our Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet and Upper Sixth student Olivia Tennant was presented to the Queen at a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. The Queen chatted to Olivia for a few minutes about the school's CCF, the Lord Lieutenancy and whether she might join the army after university.



### Jeffrey Archer

Three Lower Sixth students (Georgie Hart, Libby Shepherd and Tom Daniels) had the opportunity to meet the novelist and former MP, Lord Jeffrey Archer at the Hilton Metropole. They listened to a fascinating speech in which Lord Archer spoke about his career as a politician working for Margaret Thatcher as well as then going on to become one of the most prolific and successful novelists of modern times (350 million novels sold). They also had a number of their questions directed to him during the Q & A before chatting to him over lunch.



### Debating

For the 5th year running the school hosted an inter-schools debating competition aimed at broadening access to debating in our local area. Fifty pupils took part in the three rounds of debating, judged by high-level university debaters who came from across the country to help the younger pupils succeed.

This event was followed in the evening by the annual Big Debate, chaired by the award-winning journalist and Patron of the Debating Society, Michael Buerk. The motion on the table was 'This House would ban private schools' and an in-depth, passionate and incisive debate ensued. Whilst the majority of the house opposed the motion, the proposition actually swayed more voters. Thanks to all involved.



### The SSPA's

#### 'An Evening with Mike Tindall MBE'

It was a rollicking night of rugby and royalty as the SSPA hosted 'An Evening with Mike Tindall MBE' on 7 June. With more than 150 guests in attendance, the event showcased stories from Mike's legendary sporting career, including hilarious, behind-the-scenes tour tales from England's 2003 Rugby World Cup win. As part of an audience Q&A, Mike also shared insights on his fellow players, family life with Zara Phillips and his first royally nerve-wracking meeting with Her Majesty the Queen. Thanks to generous guest and sponsor support, the event raised over £10,000, bringing the SSPA's 2018/19 fundraising total to over £34,000.

### SSPA Fashion & Fizz Night

On 15 March, the Solihull School Parents' Association hosted their first-ever 'Fashion & Fizz Night' – an exclusive evening of runway and retail therapy. The event began with bubbles, canapes and some seriously civilised shopping with a stunning selection of fashion, accessories and giftware stalls on offer. After supper, guests were treated to a private viewing of the season's chicest looks, courtesy of Knowle's Belle Diva boutique, with the chance to shop straight from the catwalk. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped to raise more than £2,400 for the school.

This morning our Upper Sixth students received some very special messages from our J1s. We want to wish all of our Upper Sixth students the best of luck as they start their study leave next week. (3 May)

Over 60 pupils & staff ran our 5k #SolSchHouseComp Run. Well done to everyone who took part! (7 May)





## Chemistry Department – Salters' Chemistry Festival

In April, four Shell Form pupils – Emma Roberts, Tom McArthur, Noah Maclean and Hannah Greenwood – took part in the Salters' Chemistry Festival at the University of Birmingham. The day entailed solving two practical chemistry challenges in the University's new laboratories. Both exercises required high levels of team work, problem solving and practical skills in order to complete the task. The four pupils worked extremely well together and came second in the afternoon challenge on controlling the speed of chemical reactions. The day ended with a 'chemical magic' demonstration by Dr Ray Plevy. Well done to all four pupils!



## Translation Bee

At the Regional Finals of the Translation Bee, which is designed for Year 9 pupils, our six finalists, Francisco Campino, Piers Kemp, Anton Deineka, Megan Croft, Balaarka Cheekoti and Roma Morris all did themselves proud, firing off phrases in their chosen language under immense pressure. In the final reckoning, we were delighted to discover that Francisco had translated phrases from English to Spanish so quickly and so accurately that he had made it into the top five, thereby qualifying for the National Final to be held at Cambridge University.



## IDEA Award

Shell Form pupils have been busy in the latter part of the summer term completing the Duke of York Digital Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award. They have been busy working on completing a series of online challenges to badge their brilliance by developing skills, gaining knowledge and learning information about the digital world. All of the pupils are aiming for a Bronze award.

However, I am extremely delighted that after only a few days of launching the programme, Noah Treanor, William Higgs and Matthew Johnson achieved their Bronze award. What is even more astonishing is that Noah Treanor has achieved his Silver award! An email was sent to Mrs Patel from Buckingham Palace congratulating Noah on his impressive achievements. We certainly hope all of our Shell Form pupils will return to school in September with the Bronze award completed.



## Community Outreach

Despite the busy examination period, Solihull students and staff have continued to support important community causes. Fourth Form Duke of Edinburgh students took advantage of the charity Krispy Kreme doughnut scheme to raise vital funds for Central Rescue, the lowland volunteer service that serves this region. Mr Robin Bate, on the school maintenance team, is a volunteer for the organisation and brought in the rescue jeep for some of the students to explore. Shell Form Diploma pupils set out their stalls of cakes, books and trinkets to raise funds for charities of their own choosing and the whole school mobilised on non-uniform day to contribute to a replacement minibus for the La Future Leaders Community School in Ghana where some of our Sixth Form students volunteered last summer.

## Reynolds Cross visit

The ICT & Computing Department was delighted to invite pupils from Reynolds Cross School for an IT skills workshop, working alongside Fourth Form pupils. Our pupils worked in pairs and offered a hands-on practical session on creating a multi-media presentation which the RC pupils can transfer and apply to their school work. Both sets of pupils thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and learnt lots from it. We hope RC pupils will join us again for more skills development work. Each RC pupil was presented with a certificate to celebrate their achievement as well as a Rubix cube to improve dexterity which in turn enhances computer work.



## Engineering Education Scheme

On Thursday 2 May, the Engineering Education Scheme students attended their Celebration and Assessment day at Cranmore Park, having completed two high-level projects set by Jaguar Land Rover, an initiative they are completing as part of their Aspire programme.

One project was to look at improving the parking / manoeuvring systems for large vehicles and the second team produced a prototype of a system which would raise and lower a sensor-controlled ground-level spoiler system when it detected obstructions in the road.

Their projects generated a lot of interest from the visiting engineers and they all received very positive feedback from the senior industry professionals who assessed their work. All 12 students passed the project and graduated with an Industrial Cadets Gold Level award.



Improving our team racing skills against Oundle and Rugby at Rutland today. Three wins out of 4! Well done to the Solihull sailors, and thanks to Oundle for hosting! (11 May)

Huge congratulations to Charlotte Rigg who has been selected to compete at the 2019 World Junior Championships this summer representing Britain. (13 May)



## Birmingham University STEM Discovery Day

On 26 June, a group of 12 students from Solihull School attended the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Discovery Day at the University of Birmingham, along with students from a number of other schools. During the day, the students attended a series of workshops which included robotics, predicting treatment strategies with Maths as well as accident and emergency Engineering. This last workshop saw students competing against other schools to design the strongest way to repair a broken bone with their model then tested for strength. One of the groups from Solihull managed to win the prize for their design! The day finished with a tour of campus. Our thanks go to the University of Birmingham for a very enjoyable and informative day.



## Williams F1 Trip

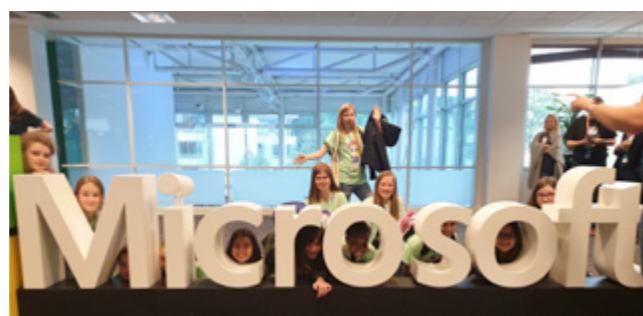
Design Technology and GPR students were invited to the Williams Heritage Museum to see how they have developed their Formula 1 cars into the fast but efficient racing vehicles of today. We also visited their advanced engineering centre, where Williams collaborate with the likes of Jaguar and Singer on their Formula-E vehicles and reimagined Porsches. However, the highlight of the trip was a tour of the high tech production facilities where students were privileged to see how components are CNC machined from titanium, and complex body panels are formed in light weight carbon fibre.



## MJG2DFMC Cycle Team

Early on Saturday morning on the first day of May half term, 36 staff, friends and helpers assembled on the Field of Mars for what was to be the start of an epic three-day adventure. As a huge personal challenge for all involved, and in memory of a beloved friend and colleague, we were attempting to cycle from the recently named Martyn Garner Building at school to the David Fricke Mountain Cottage in Snowdonia, a place which was very special to Martyn and where a memorial to honour his memory has been erected. The route was an especially challenging one which took us over some of the highest mountain passes in Wales, a total of 170 miles and 12000 feet of ascent.

Immediately from setting off, the team gelled together and with a wonderful support crew of five staff who fed us bananas, flapjacks and wine gums every 10 miles, somehow we all made it! On the Monday evening we finally arrived at the cottage, exhausted, drenched and filled with emotion. The finish line had been adorned with pictures of Martyn. Well done to all who took part in an event which was incredibly special and which individually we will never forget. Thank you to those who donated too. We raised over £4100 for Llanberis Mountain Rescue, a charity close to Martyn's heart and his love of the region. The spirit of Perseverantia had absolutely shone through.



## Digigirlz Day

In June some of our Shell Form girls visited Microsoft for their Digigirlz Day. The girls got an inside look at what it's like to work at Microsoft and were tasked with creating a pitch for a piece of wearable technology.



## Geography Field Trips

In the final week of the Easter Term the Lower Sixth Geographers undertook a residential field course to Castle Head in Cumbria to experience a variety of fieldwork techniques in preparation for planning their Independent Investigations as part of their Geography A-Level. The Lower Fifth Geographers kick-started the last half term of the year by working hard during their GCSE field course to Nettlecombe Court. One day focused on the impacts of coastal processes and management strategies in place at Porlock Bay, and the other day involved assessing the success of the Taunton Vision regeneration programme. The Lower Fifth were deserving of being awarded Team of the Week in recognition of their hard work during the field course.



Last week was our Upper Sixth's final full week at Solihull before their exam leave. They celebrated with fancy dress, water slides and even more fancy dress! (13 May)

We have another pair of siblings playing cricket for Warwickshire, this time in our Junior School. Well done to J3 & J4 pupils Daniel and Callum! (14 May)





Last week the Junior School had an assembly with Severn Trent about how we can reduce our water wastage, such as turning off the tap when brushing our teeth, or taking a 4-minute shower. (16 May)

Well done to our current and former pupils who received their Gold DofE awards at Buckingham Palace this week. (17 May)



### Duke of Edinburgh's Award Easter Gold Practice

Twenty-eight Lower Sixth students (four mixed groups of seven) spent the first four days of their Easter holidays in North Wales preparing for their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme Expedition section. This involved a day doing micro-navigation training with staff accompanying in the Rhinog range and then three days walking in a north-easterly direction across the Snowdonia National Park to finish near LLanrwst. The route involved a wild camp in the Moelwyn mountain range and as always this proved to be a big 'step up' in terms of both the skill set required and physicality for the pupils. Fortunately, the weather was kind; pupils had a very cold night high up in the mountains on the wild camp but it stayed dry. All pupils worked really hard and showed real determination. There is a follow-up navigational training weekend for some in June (in the Clee Hill area). Well done to all and a big thank you to all the staff involved.

### Easter Silver Practice and Assessment

Two groups of Lower Fifth pupils (1 girls group and 1 mixed team) spent the first week of the Easter holiday completing both their Practice and Assessment expeditions. The Practice in Denbighshire on the Welsh borders was followed with a day off by the seaside during which pupils had some (very limited however) time to recover before commencing their three-day venture, starting to the west of Betws-y-Coed in Snowdonia. Pupils enjoyed the break from camping in the middle of the week and a chance to enjoy the luxury of a bunk bed! All pupils did really well and were successful. Congratulations to all Silver candidates and thank you to all staff leaders for making this possible.



### Bronze Practice and Assessment

Eighty-two Fourth Form pupils, split into twelve separate expedition teams, have been involved in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme this year. Pupils trained for this on Monday evenings through January and February and after many nights of issuing kit and testing tents to all concerned, the pupils set forth to Shropshire in early May. Here they had navigational training from staff, instruction on the use of the stove, and they put into practice the ideas they had been taught back in school. They then had the Saturday afternoon and Sunday to complete their planned route. One month later the pupils travelled to the Peak District for their Assessment weekend. A very wet Saturday made conditions challenging and pupils quickly found out whose boots leaked! Many had soaked feet for the two days. Well done to all concerned and again, thank you to the school staff and many volunteers who make this possible. There is also a follow-up weekend at the end of June in Warwickshire for pupils who couldn't complete their expedition route in the Peaks!

Pupils at all levels have been working hard on the Skill, Physical and Volunteering section of their award and it is this time of year when pupils can now think of 'signing off' these sections and completion.



### CCF Trip to Boston, USA

In June 2019, five CCF cadets (Penny Goodman as the Senior NCO, William Sunderland, Cedric Mergental, Tom Boake and Benedict Yearsley) visited Boston to take part in the Junior Leadership Challenge in a US Army Base called Fort Devans. We went with our partner school, Tile Cross School, Welbeck College and 180 American cadets from a wide variety of schools in New England.

Many of the other cadets came from very different backgrounds yet the Solihull students integrated well and threw themselves into all the activities; these including flying in a Black Hawk helicopter, kayaking, shooting, abseiling and commemorating the fallen in the US Revolutionary war in Concord and Lexington. They also took part in the Annual Bunker Hill Parade which marked the start of the War of Independence and was watched by thousands of Bostonians. An amazing experience for all concerned.



Well done to pupils representing the school in the regional finals of the Spanish Spelling Bee. All worked very hard to get there and performed excellently on the day. (16 May)

High quality practical outcomes being produced as part of our Fourth Form DT lighting projects. (21 May)





Well done to our J2 girls, all of whom played their first rounders match of the season against Hallfield last week. (21 May)

Junior School Canoe Club has started up again this term. On Tuesday our pupils tried out racing boats for the first time. (24 May)



### Berlin Trip

Once again, around 30 Shell Formers and five staff members set off on the May half term trip to Berlin. The objective is to provide pupils with an authentic taste of the vibrant, liberal and cosmopolitan life of the German capital, and of course, provide an opportunity to try out the language. This is the second year running the trip, and as before, the itinerary consisted of a day visiting the major tourist attractions (Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag, Zoo, Tierpark), a day at a local water park, followed by shopping, and a day visiting historical museums and sites (GDR museum, Allied Museum, Stadium Tour). We travelled about using the city's efficient U-Bahn network and stayed in a stylish and modern central hotel. A particular highlight this year was seeing the *Vivid* show in the Friedrichstadtpalast, a world-renowned display of acrobatics, dance and costumes. We also visited the *Hofbrauhaus*, a typical Bavarian-style German eatery where the staff rounded off the week with a well-earned *Stein* of beer!



### Madrid Trip

Over Easter, 29 Third Form pupils and 3 teachers flew to Madrid for a five-day residential trip to the international education centre CEI El Jarama, approximately 45 minutes north of Madrid. Each morning, pupils were woken to Spanish music played through the announcement system at the camp with a breakfast of 'magdalenas' (cakes) and chocolate milk. Activities ranged from tending to the animals, baking, archery, wall climbing and doing Easter treasure hunts across the farm campus.

Highlights include the nature hike in glorious sunshine, walking through olive groves as a warm-up for Snowdonia School next year plus the excursion to Alcalá de Henares. Here, pupils took part in a town-based treasure hunt and then enjoyed the shopping centre shortly after! All of the activities were conducted with the centre staff speaking only Spanish to the pupils to aid their immersion and appreciation of other cultures with all receiving their diploma due to their fantastic participation. ¡Bien hecho!



### Classics Trip to Italy

At midnight on Saturday 21 April, 25 intrepid Classicists set off with Mrs Johnson, Mr Jones and Miss Rutherford to explore the Bay of Naples and Rome. After very little sleep, we hit the ground running, visiting the pleasure palaces of Baiae and the amphitheatre at Pozzuoli. Having had a night to recover, we spent the next two days marvelling at Pompeii (where, eheu! Caecilius' house was closed!), Herculaneum, the Villa Oplontis and the wonders of the Naples Archaeological Museum. Then we marched on Rome via the very beautiful abbey at Monte Cassino. The next three days were a whirlwind of Roman delights: Hadrian's Villa at Tivoli, the Ara Pacis, the Pantheon, the Colosseum, the Forum, the Palatine and the Vatican. And, of course, lots of delicious gelato!



Thank you so much to Greswold School for visiting the DT and Food Department on Tuesday. Pupils were challenged to make the tallest paper towers, and baked flavoured breadsticks. (23 May)

Well done to J4 pupils Josie, Aaryana & Annah who organised making and selling bracelets for Marie Curie. (25 May)





J3 had a fabulous day in Oxford at the Ashmolean Museum and the Pitt Rivers last week. (27 May)

Well done to J2 pupil James who has qualified for the Chess 'Gigafinals' in July! From starting chess in September at school as a beginner, James was one of 12 children in his age category to progress to the next stage of the competition. (29 May)



## Summer Art Exhibition

The 2019 Summer Exhibition showcased the work of our A-Level and GCSE Art and Photography students alongside work from younger pupils and the Art Scholars. This year some of the staff also joined the celebration with a variety of work on display. Guests and families were very impressed with the talented students along with the Mayor and many past Silhillians who joined us for drinks and a catch up with past teachers and friends.



## Drama

On the evening of 16 May, Lower Fifth and Lower Sixth Drama students travelled to Oxford Playhouse to see Kneehigh's brilliant 'Dead Dog in a Suitcase'. This flamboyant and enormously theatrical production was enjoyed by all and thoroughly discussed on the return journey.

The evening of Saturday 6 July saw the Third Annual Drama Awards Dinner, 'The Gwemmas', take place in the Keith Sach Suite. Guests were treated to welcome drinks on the balcony before enjoying a sumptuous three-course meal, followed by an awards ceremony celebrating all of the wonderful things that have been achieved in Drama this year. Special thanks must go to the outgoing Theatre Arts scholars, Aoife Mackew and Holly McClenaghan, who did such a brilliant job of decorating the venue.



## A Midsummer Night's Dream

In June, Bushell Hall audiences were treated to an immersive production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. A cast of 40 brought the story to life using lots of glitter, festival-inspired costumes and an especially magical set, designed by Mr Hunton. Thomas Giddings was spectacular as Bottom, Freddie Truman and Alex Warburton were fantastic as the Fairy King and Fairy Queen and Lola Blue Sattar O'Dwyer's Puck tormented the audience with her mischievous tricks. Pupils learnt a challenging Shakespearean script and enlivened the play with humour and sensitivity. Drama is a truly collaborative endeavour and this was certainly seen in the importance of live music played by Will Naisbitt, Katy Baker and Gemma Winfield. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was a truly visual spectacle and a real achievement.



## Edinburgh Fringe Previews

Early July saw our Sixth Form theatre company, 'Grey Dog Theatre', present the Solihull previews of their much anticipated shows 'Grimm Tales' and 'Invisible'. 'Grimm Tales' was performed by members of the Lower Sixth and re-imagined several much-loved fairy tales in an exuberant and joyful style. Before performing to local audiences, the 'Grimm Tales' cast also took their show on the road to local primary school children, who were delighted by its energy and good humour. The original music for 'Grimm Tales' was provided by Alexandra Duckworth and the varied parts were played by a talented cast of eleven, using puppets, an enormous array of props and much expert manipulation of a dozen old suitcases. The Upper Sixth presented 'Invisible', an adaptation of 'The Invisible Man' by HG Wells, which combined the classic and thrilling tale of science gone wrong, with an original and relevant contemporary narrative. Both shows thrilled audiences over several evenings in preparation for their eight-show run in Edinburgh during August.



## J4 Scholars

Congratulations to our fantastic J4 pupils who have been awarded scholarships for our Senior School next year.

## Maths Success in the Junior School

Once again, some of our J3 and J4 pupils took part in the Junior Maths Challenge. This paper is sat by children up to the age of thirteen from all around the country and is designed to challenge even the most able of the oldest pupils. This year, thirty-eight of our pupils achieved a certificate. Five pupils achieved a gold award, twelve pupils achieved a silver award and twenty-one pupils achieved a bronze award.



## J1 Public Speaking

This term, our J1 Public Speaking Winner and Runners Up delivered their talk to all of the J1s and J2s in assembly. This was the year group's first experience of researching a topic (their hobby) and delivering it to an audience in an interesting and informative way. We were so impressed with the standard delivered by all pupils! The overall winner was Alistair who spoke about football and the runners up, Tabitha and Leon, spoke about slime making and art respectively.



Well done to our U9 girls' rounders team who played against Bablake last week. They played a brilliant match. (28 May)

The Solihull Area Oxbridge network held a very successful tutorial event for the Lower Sixth at Arden last week, ranging from Classics and Archaeology to Medical and Mathematics sessions. (30 May)



On the same day as the European elections the Junior School elected their own Prime Minister There was an 80% turnout from pupils and staff, who elected J4 pupil James. (31 May)



## Megathlon

Junior School pupils took part in 14 different activities – one for every class – for the sponsored charity event, which was the last one in a busy year of fundraising. Each year group voted and nominated a charity to support for the event after listening to presentations from pupils and the total amount raised will be split evenly between the four charities. These were: The Eve Appeal (J1); Inspire Afrika (J2); Edward's Trust (J3) and Assistance Dogs UK (J4). A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored pupils and helped raise over £1000 for each charity.



## J1 Art Workshop

The J1 pupils had an amazing day this term, participating in an art workshop with former pupil and professional artist, Florence Super. Following their visit to Cotswold Farm Park earlier this half term, they worked in their forms on planks of wood (Florence's signature style) to recreate three cheeky sheep looking over a wall. The pupils learned how to plait using fabrics and wools, explored different colour tones and experimented with mixed media. Their final artwork is a fantastic, fun, textured image of 3 sheep- Jimmy (J1M), Jilly (J1L) and Woolly (J1W).



Today the LV Geographers spent the day at Porlock Bay. Students worked in groups to analyse how the beach pebbles change in size, shape and distribution from the west end of the bay to the east. (3 June)



## Pet Service

The Pet Service was a marvellous experience, and a great evening. Father Andrew's words refreshed everyone's minds, reminding us how important it is to celebrate the beautiful creations of the world, whilst the Junior and Scuffle Singers' performance was very impressive and full of fun. Everyone who attended the event would agree that all the way through the service there was a constant bark, squeak, or some other odd noise coming from the over-enthusiastic animals, but most of us never minded this, as we were having the time of our lives!



## Oxford Art Trip

The J3s had a fabulous day out researching and sketching all things East Asian, with a view to inspiring their 'Mask' designs in Art, back at school. They travelled to Oxford and visited The Ashmolean Museum and the Pitt Rivers Museum and had great fun observing many interesting artefacts.



In the last year solar panels on the roof of the George Hill Building have generated over 30,000 kw of energy! (2 June)

Fourth Form Bronze DoF Assessment weekend in the Peak District - well done to all participants! (10 June)



On this day 70 years ago, 10th June 1949, Field Marshal Montgomery ("Monty") visited Solihull School. (10 June)

III Le have been discussing gratitude during form time & have created a 'cup of gratitude' to share what they are grateful for. (10 June)



## J1 Cotswold Farm Park

The J1s visited Cotswold Farm Park as part of their farming, trade and sustainability topic in geography. They were introduced to the concept of Fair Trade and discussed, with interest, the financial implications of the banana trade. The children also learnt about the differences between farming in the UK and farming in different parts of the world. They were then able to spend time exploring the farm, feeding and handling some of the rare breed animals and instigating lots of very cute photo opportunities!



## Mary Arden's Farm trip

J3 went to Mary Arden's Farm, in Wilmcote, to learn more about the Tudors, which they have been studying this year. The children dressed up in Tudor costume and took part in a variety of activities throughout the day. This included feeding the sheep, making a wattle and daub panel, painting a wall hanging, baking bread and making butter using Tudor methods. They also enjoyed Tudor dancing and a picnic lunch!



## J4 First Aid

J4 have learned First Aid this term with instructors from St John's Ambulance. They have been taught vital and potentially lifesaving skills. These include knowing how to deal with fainting, bleeding, asthma attacks, burns, poisoning and how to put someone in the recovery position. They have also learned what should be in a First Aid kit. The pupils enjoyed the sessions, especially putting bandages on each other!



## J4 Hilltop Residential

From Friday 10 to Monday 13 May, J4 travelled to Sheringham in Norfolk for an action-packed weekend at Hilltop. All pupils took part in a range of activities including mountain biking, orienteering, zip-wire as well as rock pooling on the beach. The trip involved plenty of opportunities for personal challenge, team-building, learning new skills and most importantly fun with friends! The weather was glorious and made the ice-cream taste even sweeter! A super time was had by all pupils and staff who went.



Huge well done to J2 pupil William and his dance partner who competed in a national dance competition in Essex over the weekend. They are now U10 Beginners Champions in Ballroom and U10 Beginners Vice Champions in Latin. (11 June)

Snod School 339 have arrived in Wales and are ready to canoe on the lake. (10 June)





Despite the dreary weather, our Lower School play, A Midsummer Night's Dream, is still going ahead. Our Bushell Hall will be transformed into a magical world of fairies, forests and festivals! (13 June)

CCF cadets at Heathrow, about to leave for Boston to experience a US Army camp and take part in the Bunker Hill parade. (14 June)



## Junior School Sport

This term our Junior School swimmers made history. Alex Sethi, Maddy Brown, Kate O'Leary, Jemima Meigh & Scarlett Pugh qualified for the IAPS National Swimming Finals at the London Aquatics Centre. These incredible swimmers raced in the 4x25m Girls Freestyle Relay, 25m Girls Butterfly (Maddy) and 50m Boys Backstroke (Alex). Our Junior School Swimming Squad has also competed at both the King Henry VIII and Warwick School swimming galas. Well done to all swimmers for their hard work at squad sessions, and excellent racing throughout the year.

## Boys' Sport

The Junior School Cricket teams have been busy this term, with lots of fixtures against Hallfield, Blue Coat and West House. There have been many achievements in cricket, from all J2 boys proudly representing the school vs West House, to the U10 A-team's skilful victory over Hallfield. Well done to all boys in the Junior School for their hard work at cricket training this summer.



## Girls' Sport

As we near the end of term the grass has never looked greener and the Rounders basket of balls has never looked so fully stocked! It has been a wet summer term, with many unpayable fixtures. But despite this, all girls in J2-4 have represented the school in Rounders matches against Bablake, Blue Coat or Hallfield. J1 have worked with their usual energy and excitement and their newly-acquired Rounders knowledge will be put to the test in House matches in the last week of term.

The athletics track has also seen a lot of action. Girls have been out there whatever the weather and have all completed a carousel of activities to try out all athletics events. Girls have acquitted themselves with determination and grit in competitive fixtures including the Solihull Sprints event, Hallfield Relays and Borough Sports. As the year draws to a close it is wonderful to reflect on the many successes achieved in girls' sport, both individual and team, personal triumphs and publically celebrated wins. Roll on September...

## Junior School Concert

Junior School concerts are always full of verve and promise, and this term's was no exception, and involved a large number of pupils. It was primarily for ensemble and year group performances, though there were a few solo performances from some J4 pupils. Eight of the Junior School music ensembles performed: Wind Band; Brass Ensemble; String Orchestra; Guitar Ensemble; String Trio; J3 Clarinet & Flute Group; Piano Trio, Bassoon trio, Scuffle Singers & Junior Singers as well as each section of the J1 Instrumental Scheme: Strings; Flutes/Clarinets; & Trumpets/Pbones. Each year group presented vocal items they had developed through their curriculum music lessons, allowing so many of the pupils to perform in public. The concert concluded with the whole of J4 marking the end of their time in the Junior School with the Beatles classic song 'Let it Be' – a tremendous finale!



## Summer Concert

At a point in the term when the weather really did feel as though summer was on its way (before the rainy June), 130 pupils played and sang in 11 different orchestral, woodwind, brass, string and jazz ensembles in the Summer Concert. The programme, as usual, featured a wonderful breadth of musical periods, styles and genres and all the performances were impressive both for their musical sparkle and consistency in quality. One particular highlight was Oliver Francis's performance of two movements of a Mozart piano concerto, accompanied marvellously by Chamber Orchestra. At the end of a great evening we recognised the significant impact the leaving Upper Sixth students have made over the years to the musical life of the school by presenting them each with a rose as a token of our esteem. There was then more than a hint of dewy eyes in the hall!



We are hosting some amazing CPD on prejudice and discrimination in September. The highlight is a Q&A with Eva Schloss, Anne Frank's stepsister. (13 June)

Last week our J1 Public Speaking Winner and Runners Up delivered their talks to all of the J1s and J2s in assembly. (14 June)





We recently received some new aerial photos of our campus - we can't believe how much the school has changed. (14 June)



## Festival & Diploma Successes

Once again, a number of our pupils have performed in music festivals outside school in recent months. At the Leamington Spa Music Festival many pupils had successes, with 1st or 2nd prizes being gained by woodwind, vocal and string players: Gemma Winfield (five, as well as the trophy for 'Most Promising Clarinettist'); Jacques Barker (three); Burcin Demiroglu (three); George Finney (two); Yichen Pan (two); Viraaj Parmar; Kieran Bown; Oliver Cooper; Isabel Morgan; Lara El Daief and Florence Pugh. After this goes to press our pianists will have performed in their categories in the same festival and no doubt will have done equally well. Congratulations to all.

## Trebles and Tewkesbury

A week before the end of term our Boys' and Girls' Choirs had the wonderful experience of singing Evensong in the magnificent Tewkesbury Abbey. Their sound has progressed impressively this year and their voices resounded around the abbey with sparkle and precision.



## Impressive Music Exam Successes

Huge congratulations to all those pupils who took instrumental exams at the very end of last term (April). In addition to their individual successes, the combined set of results was one of the best we have ever had: 30% were distinctions and 77% were either merit or distinction. All that practice must have paid off. Keep up the good work!

## Solihull Sings!

This term's choral outreach programme has involved visitors from St Augustine's Catholic Primary School combining with all our J2 pupils in songs involving 80 children. Mr Rice has led weekly sessions in each of the schools, with the programme culminating in a splendid celebratory get-together and concert in the Chapel. It is always so uplifting to see all the children united in song and deriving so much pleasure from making music together and we thank Mr Rice for having continued this important community initiative in his first year with us.

## Soloist Concerts

As well as the concerts for large ensembles, the usual array of concerts for individuals to gain the experience of performing as soloists have continued. Highlights included a second Upper Sixth Form Recital, the second Music Scholars' Recital of the year as well as Informal Concerts (two on one afternoon for 50+ Junior School pupils and then another two on a different evening for 50+ Senior School pupils), a vocal concert, an organ recital given by Max Dormon and individuals performing at both the Junior and Lower School Prize Giving ceremonies. In every concert all performers – young and old, beginner and experienced – acquitted themselves with confidence, musicality and panache. Bravo!

## Leavers' Service

The Leavers' Service marked the departure of our Upper Sixth, and we reluctantly said goodbye to twelve of the most dedicated choristers any conductor could wish for, and in particular a large number of exquisite baritones. To send them on their way, Oliver Francis conducted Rutter's 'Go Forth into the World' as a final blessing. Max Dormon then played us out with Karg-Elert's 'Nun danket alle Gott' on the organ. It was a very moving service, and an opportunity to look ahead to a new chapter for the Chapel Choir, who have all made wonderful musical progress this year.

Congratulations to our Lower School Maths Team for a fantastic performance in today's UK Maths Trust Team Maths Challenge National Final in London. (17 June)



## Sri Lanka Cricket Tour

The 2019 cricket season started with a pre-season tour to Sri Lanka over the Easter holiday. 33 boys from the Lower and Middle School departed Birmingham Airport and arrived in Colombo for a two-week tour of the country with five members of staff.

The cricket was outstanding, with a total of 15 matches being played. Despite the quality of the opposition and the hot conditions, the boys performed well and managed to win 9, lose 5 with 1 tied. The tour was also a cultural experience and the boys enjoyed a trip to the Sigiriya Rock Fortress which is a world heritage site as well as to the country's oldest fort in Galle, built by the Portuguese in 1584. A great time was had by all and this was a fantastic opportunity for the boys to develop their cricketing skills.



Before Solihull School Parents' Association's dinner on Friday last week, their speaker Mike Tindall met some young fans in our Junior School. (16 June)

Thank you so much to all of our volunteers who joined us in the Junior School last week for their Careers Morning. (19 June)





## Fishing Club

Over the Easter holidays our Fishing Club went out twice to enjoy the sunny weather and catch some sizeable fish.



# Summer Term Teams of the Week

## The Bench 2018-19

*A fantastic team effort for 2018-2019*

## Shell Form Chemistry Team

*Fantastic performance in the University of Birmingham Salters' Festival Challenge*

## EES Team

*Excellent performance in the Engineering Education Scheme (EES) Assessment Day*

## Sailing Team

*Fantastic performance in the Three-Boat Team Racing Event*

## MJG2DFMC Cycle Team

*An incredibly poignant and inspiring achievement*

## Lower Fifth Geographers

*Excellent contribution to a successful Geography Field Trip*

## Cast and crew of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

*Three wonderful nights of drama in the Bushell Hall*

## IVIT B2 Class

*Fantastic contribution to a successful afternoon with Reynolds Cross pupils*

## 1st XI Cricket team

*Won a thrilling match against Wellington School and then beat Monmouth the following day*

## Girls' Cricket Team

*Fantastic victory over Monmouth in their first ever hard ball game*

## Sailing Team

*Superb performance at Itchenor Regatta*

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Solihull School, Warwick Road, Solihull West Midlands B91 3DJ

Telephone Numbers: School Office: 0121 705 0958 Admissions Registrar: 0121 705 4273 Bursar: 0121 705 0883

Fax: 0121 711 4439 Email: [admin@solsch.org.uk](mailto:admin@solsch.org.uk) Web: [www.solsch.org.uk](http://www.solsch.org.uk)